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Group: City must get **involved** in planning

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MORRISON – The head of a business **group** urged the City Council to become **involved** in the planning process for a U.S. Route 30 **bypass** around **Morrison**. Bob Vaughn, chairman of the **Morrison** Business Advisory **Group**, asked council members to attend a state Department of Transportation meeting with businesses on May 24.

Recently, the state reported that some businesses in central **Morrison** could be hurt by the shifting of U.S. 30 outside of town. The Business Advisory **Group**, a city-appointed committee, has been concerned about the effect on businesses.

"If you have a reduction in business, that would affect our budget as a city," he said.

He said he expected the state to choose a northern or southern route for the **bypass** by November.

"Phase 1 is going to end. They're going to make a choice," said Vaughn, adding that it is in the community's best interest to be **involved** in that choice.

Mayor Roger Drey pointed to a city resolution from November 2008 in which the council supported a southern route. He said that route fit better in the city's long-term comprehensive plan and that a northern route would be "detrimental to orderly growth."

The U.S. 30 project would also include expanding 24 miles of highway, from Rock Falls to Fulton, to four lanes.

Officials say the project could be years down the road.

The Business Advisory **Group** hasn't yet decided whether to recommend a northern or southern route.

To attend

Illinois Department of Transportation officials will meet with local business people at 6 p.m. May 24 at Odell Public Library, 307 Madison St.

The department is expected to make a presentation and take questions.

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